

Magistrate Judge Paula L. McCandlis

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff

v.

JOEL VASQUEZ VENTURA
Defendant.

CASE NO. MJ25-204

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION

Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1326(a)

BEFORE PAULA L. MCCANDLIS, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S.
Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

COUNT ONE

(Reentry of Removed Alien)

On April 2, 2025, in Whatcom County, within the Western District of Washington,
JOEL VASQUEZ VENTURA, an alien, a native and citizen of Mexico, was found in the
United States after having been removed therefrom, and after knowingly and voluntarily
reentering the United States without having obtained the express consent of the Attorney
General and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to reapply for
admission to the United States.

1 All in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a).

2 And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following
3 information:

4 I, Special Agent Jordan Dolan, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. I am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). As a
7 Special Agent, I am empowered by law to investigate and to make arrests for offenses
8 enumerated in Title 8 of the United States Code. I have been a Special Agent with HSI
9 since February 21, 2016. I was trained to conduct investigations relating to violations of
10 federal law through attending the Criminal Investigator Training Program and the
11 Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training Program at the Federal Law
12 Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. While at FLETC, I
13 received nearly 1000 hours of training in such areas including, but not limited to
14 criminal law, human smuggling/trafficking investigations, and criminal procedures. I
15 was trained to conduct investigations relating to violations of Title 8 of the United States
16 Code.

17 2. Prior to being a Special Agent with HSI, I was employed as a Border Patrol
18 Agent (BPA) with the United States Border Patrol (USBP), from September 1999 to May
19 2005. As a BPA, I conducted criminal investigations focusing on the entry without
20 inspection and illegal re-entry of undocumented aliens as well as human smuggling of
21 undocumented aliens across the United States border with Mexico.

22 3. The facts set forth in this Affidavit are based on my own personal
23 knowledge; knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this
24 investigation, including other law enforcement personnel; review of documents and
25 records related to this investigation; communications with others who have personal
26 knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein; and information gained
27 through my training and experience. This Affidavit is intended to merely show there is

1 sufficient probable cause for the above charge and does not set forth all my knowledge
2 about this matter.

3 4. As further detailed below, based on my investigation and the investigation
4 of other law enforcement officers, I submit there is probable cause to believe that Joel
5 VASQUEZ VENTURA, who was previously removed from the United States, was
6 found in the United States after knowingly and voluntarily reentering the United States
7 without prior authorization to do so.

8 **SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

9 5. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains an
10 alien registration administration file, commonly referred to as an “A-file,” A205-256-
11 363, on Joel VASQUEZ VENTURA (hereinafter “VASQUEZ VENTURA”). This file is
12 the official immigration file maintained by USCIS and is a consolidated repository of all
13 known immigration contacts with VASQUEZ VENTURA. It contains documents
14 pertaining to his identity and alienage and shows that he is a native and citizen of
15 Mexico.

16 6. VASQUEZ VENTURA’s A-File contains official immigration records of
17 the Department of Homeland Security. These records reflect that VASQUEZ VENTURA
18 was removed from the United States to Mexico on the following dates and locations:

- 19 a. On March 21, 2012, VASQUEZ VENTURA was ordered removed
20 from the United States through an expedited order of removal. On
21 March 21, 2012, he was physically removed to Mexico, on foot,
22 through Nogales, Arizona.
- 23 b. On October 22, 2013, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended
24 VASQUEZ VENTURA near Pisinemo, Arizona. His 2012 removal
25 order was reinstated, and on January 21, 2014, VASQUEZ
26 VENTURA was physically removed from the United States to
27 Mexico by airline through from El Paso, Texas.

1 c. On April 13, 2014, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended VASQUEZ
 2 VENTURA near Columbus, New Mexico. His 2012 removal order
 3 was reinstated, and on May 13, 2014, VASQUEZ VENTURA was
 4 physically removed from the United States to Mexico, on foot,
 5 through El Paso, Texas.

6 d. On June 3, 2014, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended VASQUEZ
 7 VENTURA near Rodeo, New Mexico. His 2012 removal order was
 8 reinstated, and on October 28, 2014, VASQUEZ VENTURA was
 9 physically removed from the United States to Mexico, on foot,
 10 through El Paso, Texas.

11 7. The above-mentioned removal records each bear the fingerprint,
 12 photograph, and signature of VASQUEZ VENTURA as physical proof of his deportation
 13 from the United States to Mexico.

14 8. VASQUEZ VENTURA's A-file also contains records relating to his
 15 criminal history that reflect the following:

16 a. On March 21, 2012, VASQUEZ VENTURA was convicted in the
 17 U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, of one count of 8 U.S.C.
 18 1325, Illegal Entry into the United States, and was sentenced to time
 19 served (two days) (Case No. 12-CR-23896MP).

20 b. On October 24, 2013, VASQUEZ VENTURA was convicted in the
 21 U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, of 8 U.S.C. 1325, Illegal
 22 Entry into the United States, and was sentenced to 75 days of
 23 imprisonment (Case No. 13-CR-33746M).

24 c. On May 7, 2014, VASQUEZ VENTURA was convicted in the U.S.
 25 District Court, District of New Mexico, of 8 U.S.C. § 1326, Reentry
 26 of a Removed Alien, and was sentenced to one month of
 27 imprisonment (Case No. 14-CR-01299).

1 9. On February 26, 2025, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Blaine,
2 Washington served a Notice of Inspection (NOI) and administrative subpoena to the
3 owner of Mt. Baker Roofing at 928 Thomas Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226. The NOI and
4 subpoena requested Employment Eligibility Verification forms (I-9s) and identification
5 documents for each employee.

6 10. On March 4, 2025, HSI received I-9s and identification documents for the
7 employees at of Mt. Baker Roofing. Among those I-9 forms, HSI agents located a I-9
8 with VASQUEZ VENTURA's name and known date of birth. Accompanying the I-9 was
9 photocopy of Permanent Resident Alien card ("LPR card") that displayed VASQUEZ
10 VENTURA's biographical information.

11 11. HSI agents conducted DHS systems and databases checks that showed that
12 VASQUEZ VENTURA was not, and had never been, a legal permanent resident, and that
13 he had previously removed from the United States on four occasions.

14 12. On April 2, 2025, HSI, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
15 officers, United States Border Patrol (USBP) agents, and Customs and Border Protection
16 (CBP) officers executed a federal search warrant at Mt. Baker Roofing in Bellingham,
17 Washington. During the warrant execution, Agents questioned VASQUEZ VENTURA,
18 and he admitted to being a citizen of Mexico with no legal documentation to remain in
19 the United States. VASQUEZ VENTURA was then placed under arrest for immigration
20 violations and transported to HSI Ferndale for further interviewing and processing.

21 13. At HSI Ferndale, HSI agents took VASQUEZ VENTURA's biographical
22 information including his photograph, fingerprints, name, and date of birth. HSI agents
23 submitted this information through the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
24 computer systems. These systems indicated an automatic biometric fingerprint match to
25 VASQUEZ VENTURA, assigned A-file A205-256-363. DHS systems checks also
26 showed that A-file A205-256-363 contained evidence of VASQUEZ VENTURA's
27 immigration history into the United States, mentioned above.

1 14. On March 24, 2025, USCIS provided HSI with a Certificate of
2 Nonexistence of Record, certifying that VASQUEZ VENTURA has never applied for
3 permission to reapply for admission into the United States after his removal to Mexico on
4 March 21, 2012.

5 15. I also have conducted a complete and thorough review of VASQUEZ
6 VENTURA's A-File A205-256-363. VASQUEZ VENTURA's A-File contains no
7 evidence that VASQUEZ VENTURA has ever applied for or received permission from
8 the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to reenter
9 the United States after being removed.

10 16. Based on the foregoing, I have probable cause to believe that VASQUEZ
11 VENTURA was found in the United States, after knowingly and voluntarily reentering
12 the United States without the express consent of the Attorney General and the Secretary
13 of the Department of Homeland Security, in violation of Title 8, United States Code,
14 Section 1326(a).


15 //

16 //

17 //

CONCLUSION


17. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that Joel VASQUEZ VENTURA has committed the aforementioned offense.



Jordan Dolan, Complainant
Special Agent, Homeland Security
Investigations

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the foregoing Complaint and Affidavit. Based on the Complaint and Affidavit, the Court hereby finds there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

DATED this 10th day of April 2025



HON. PAULA L. MCCANDLIS
United States Magistrate Judge